



TRACINGS

AIA SANTA CLARA VALLEY

FEBRUARY 2006



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NASA's New Frontier

Adaptive Re-use and Community Outreach and Development at Moffett Field spark new opportunities for collaboration and innovation at the NASA Ames Research Park in Mountain View, CA.

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif. — NASA Research Park brings opportunities for research partners to join NASA and Ames Research Center in realizing the nation's vision for affordable, credible space exploration and a sustainable human presence in space.

Under the NASA Ames Development Plan, portions of the original campus of Ames Research Center and the former Naval Air Station are being transformed into the NASA Research Park. The park will offer new laboratories, office space, classrooms, housing, a conference and education center, parking and limited retail facilities. Prestigious universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa., which opened a West Coast campus there, San Jose State University, the University of California, Santa Cruz, and over 30 industry partners focused on a wide range of disciplines are currently working with NASA at the Park.

The NASA Ames Development Plan recognizes that innovation in science and research depends on the cross-fertilization of ideas from related disciplines, public and private enterprises, and all levels of academia.

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The creation of more than 7,000 permanent, new jobs in the San Francisco Bay area is one example of the significant direct and indirect economic benefits expected to be generated by the NASA Research Park.

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To learn more about the NASA Research Park, visit www.researchpark.arc.nasa.gov or contact Ames Research Center at researchpark@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

ADVOCATING FOR ARCHITECTURE

A LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Frank Jesse, AIA

As practitioners in the building industry, we all recognize that architecture, and creation of the built environment, occurs in an intricate context of functional and aesthetic needs, materials and resources, social and political values, and governmental regulation. Energy and transportation policies, economic health, and environmental practices all intrinsically shape the buildings and neighborhoods we live and work in. These facts make it imperative that we be proactive in advocating for policies and resource allocations that facilitate our creating architecture that succeeds in a better-built environment.

Recognizing this critical importance of advocacy in the community and at all levels of government, The American Institute of Architects has greatly redoubled its efforts to energetically represent its membership and provide a voice on legislative and policy issues. The AIA is weighing in on behalf of its membership nationally, at the state level, as well as locally. In this letter, I'd like to provide a brief overview of some of these initiatives, and also encourage member involvements in these issues.

At the national level, the AIA has aggressively advocated these key areas:

- 1) Addressing development permit processes where delays increase costs, reduce returns on investment, and generally cause investors to seek other opportunities.
- 2) Insuring that architects and engineers were included in the "JOBS" tax bill, and in an ongoing manner, continuing to insure that our professional interests are appropriately recognized. The "JOBS" tax bill included an estimated \$358-million tax cut for architecture and engineering firms through tax deductions that commence at a 3% level for 2005 and scale up to 9 percent after 2009.
- 3) Collaborating with agencies such as the General Services Administration (GSA), Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to create effective but appropriate provisions for building security and safety.
- 4) Working through various Federal agencies to maintain the effectiveness of the Brooks Act which embraces selection of professional services like architectural work on a qualifications-based selection (QBS) process, rather than low-bid.
- 5) Facilitating appropriate codes and standards for accessibility that help building owners, and their retained architects, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including advocacy with numerous agencies and the Justice Department, and creating online tools and other means to communicate these design standards efficiently to the design community.
- 6) Working with a broad coalition of engineers and others to ensure that IRS rules on the 2004 "JOBS" tax bill do not exclude architects, and that the 2005 energy bill includes provisions for tax credits for "green" buildings.

7) Encouraging provisions to embrace and provide incentives towards sustainable and green design and construction. A significant effort has been underway to encourage the Federal Government, and GSA in particular, to embrace photovoltaic technology in demonstration projects so that a greater "critical mass" utilization of these materials will help decrease their costs to all users.

8) Extensive involvement in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, working through all possible channels including FEMA, local AIA chapters, and direct fund raising and hands-on volunteering to assist the local communities.

9) Involvement with US AID programs internationally to assist government in understanding the important role of architects in long-term recovery in ravaged areas, especially after the 2004 South Asia tsunami. The AIA also spearheaded significant fund raising efforts.

10) Pressing for funding of various transportation measures, which are key to California's infrastructure needs.

11) Partnering to insure appropriate federal procurement processes and coaching member firms to navigate these requirements to garner work with the GSA, Veterans Administration, Army Corps, State Department and others.

The AIA California Council has been advocating through a similarly broad range of issues affecting the design community. Some highlights in these regards include:

- 1) Supporting legislation to create funding for key transportation and infrastructure investments, including mass transit (including BART), highway, tunnel and bridge (including the Bay Bridge) funding.
- 2) Helping to formulate legislation that will provide for development of community "general plans" and "comprehensive (zoning) plans" that promise to streamline zoning and environmental conformance to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Consistent overall planning (rather than "spot" approvals) can help create quality neighborhoods while simplifying the development process. Specific provisions are being proposed to directly lead to lowering the cost of development while also fueling affordable housing construction.
- 3) Continuing to ensure appropriate procurement standards for design services, especially in light of initiatives involving Design-Build and "turn-key" development methodologies.
- 4) Collaborating with the Governor's office in encouraging sustainable and "green" design in California.
- 5) Continuing attention to "construction defect" legislation, to enhance the laws enacted in 2002. These efforts have the net effect of encouraging "smart" growth—higher densities and more housing in urban areas adjacent to mass transit nodes.



6) Supporting legislation to prevent liability attaching to a design firm when its school facilities plans are re-used for a subsequent project.

7) Successfully pressed for the California Practice Act to be clarified regarding the terms "settlement" and "claim". Otherwise, inappropriate implications and sanctions, including adverse reporting to the Department of Consumer Affairs, were potentially triggered.

8) Supported the retention of the California Architects Board (CAB), the Seismic Safety Commission and the California Building Standards Commission.

Our AIA Chapter has also been proactive in numerous advocacy issues that fundamentally affect all of us both as practitioners as well as residents of the region. Some of these have included:

1) Our Past President Steve Cox, AIA has lent both his expertise as well as being a strong voice for the profession on numerous technical code issues and proposals by the City of San Jose regarding fire and alarm provisions in buildings. While optimizing safety is vital, the provisions must be constructible and appropriately functional.

2) CEO Kent Mather, AIA has forged an increasingly strong alliance with the San Jose / Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, enabling our Chapter to amplify its voice and influence on issues as wide ranging as airport development, invitation to dialogues by Chapter members for zoning and design issues such as the North First Street planning and the Coyote Valley Master Planning (which also included Chapter Treasurer Rob Barthelman, AIA), as well as influencing the provisions of San Jose's "lobbying" ordinance (working also with Steve Cox, AIA.)

3) I continue to be integrally involved in creating "cross fertilization" of advocacy opportunities between our Chapter and the San Jose / Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce (where I serve as a member of its Board of Directors), as well as with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (where I serve as a Liaison Representative, and Co-Chair of the Housing and Land Use Committee).

4) Building a dialogue on behalf of our membership, and being a resource of the design community, for public media publications like the Mercury News and the San Jose / Silicon Valley Business Journal.

5) Architecture 101 (chaired by Judith Wasserman, AIA) conducted a widely admired (with news articles in local papers) Charrette in the Fall on behalf of a Palo Alto neighborhood in development transition. In addition to illuminating key design parameters for the community, this Charrette also highlighted the value of good design to develop successful neighborhoods.

6) The Committee on the Environment (COTE),
(Continued on page 8)

OFF AND RUNNING AT AIASCV

A LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT/CEO

Kent Mather, AIA

It wasn't planned this way but it sure The New Year is off and running at AIASCV. I hope it is for all of you as well. Nothing like a jump-start to get one's juices flowing and give attention to the tasks at hand. The business climate appears to continue slowly improving, jobs in the valley have increased for the first time since 2001, Google stock keeps going up and the Governor has the legislature debating on how to finance new state infrastructure, transit, education and housing work. Most segments of residential construction are continuing at a fast pace. Health care and education work are ongoing with seismic, renovation and expansion projects. One concern I hear from members is the rising construction costs reflected in construction bids, primarily due to material scarcity. Another challenge is the growing demand for the use of BIM (Building Information Management) for project delivery. Sounds like 2006 can be a good year for some creative and business-generating problem solving by architects, AIA Architects in particular!

2006 Board of Directors: In case you forgot, we have a new Board: **President Frank Jesse**, AIA of BEA Systems, **VP/President-Elect Alan Turner**, AIA of Hawley Peterson & Snyder, **Secretary Christine Laing**, AIA of Gensler, **Treasurer Rob Barthelman**, AIA of Steinberg Architects and **Directors Liz Gibbons**, AIA of Steinberg Architects, **Franceska Gleason**, Associate AIA of Edwin Bruce Architects, **Thomas Horan**, AIA, of DMJM H+N, **Joyce Liu**, AIA of City of San Jose, **Tom McCune**, AIA, **Monique Wood**, AIA of Anderson Brule' Architects and **Past President Rich Kirchner**, AIA of Hawley Peterson & Snyder Architects. The Board is representative of the diversity of the AIASCV Chapter. At the January Board meeting, all directors were in place and ready to go before the 7:30 AM bell. Gold stars to everyone involved. A big thanks to them and their firms in advance for their efforts in 2006!

Membership Renewal: Isn't it amazing that it is already membership renewal time? All members should have now received their 2006 renewal notices and invoices; AIA, Associate and Professional Affiliate. If you have not received yours, or can't find it, please contact us at the chapter office: 408-298-0611 or info@aiaascv.org ! The absolute deadline for National AIA to receive dues is **March 31st**. You can renew by mail, fax or on line at www.aia.org . If all or a portion of your dues has not been received by then your membership will be lapsed. Please don't procrastinate. The more of you who put this off, then more time and effort (which affects dues amounts) is expended in those annoying reminder contacts by the chapter and National AIA. Some of you may have a health or financial reason for receiving a dues waiver. Please contact me about making a waiver request.

You may remember the discussions last year about the AIA California Council Membership Pilot Program. This program has been postponed for a year while AIACC works to finalize the details. We will continue to keep the chapter informed about any involvement we may have in the Pilot Program in the near future.

Renewing your membership will continue your access to all the following benefits:

- Free, relevant *continuing education seminars* on a variety of topics to improve your architectural expertise, satisfy state registration requirements where CEU's are mandatory and maintain AIA membership. (Feb: Building Automation & Management)

- Federal, state, and local *governmental advocacy* by the AIA on legislative, regulatory, and related issues of importance to all AIA members and the communities we live in. (Think California building code and taxes on services)

- Regular access to our local and regional *community of colleagues* who share your interests in many areas of practice.

- Subscription to the award winning *Architectural Record* magazine and monthly delivery of our own member-oriented *TRACINGS* newsletter.

- *AIA Contract Documents* at a discount recognized throughout the design and construction industry as the benchmark for managing transactions and relationships involved in construction projects.

- *Discounts* for AIASCV Job Board, *Tracings* ads and books and merchandise in the AIA Bookstores for use in conducting your business.

- An on-going national *advertising campaign* (including the SF Bay Area) communicating the valuable role of "AIA Architects" like you.

- Public *design recognition* opportunities through Chapter Visions of the Valley, State and National awards programs. (AIASCV Design Awards Oct 26, 2006)

- *AIA Advantage Program* with discounts that can reduce your business expenses.

- *National Conventions*, two annual state sponsored conferences and local events showcasing latest best practices and innovative educational workshops providing unlimited opportunities to explore the issues and collaborative opportunities affecting the future of architecture. (2006 Convention in LA and Desert Practice Conference)

- *Job referrals* to potential clients looking for architectural services. (178 requests for referral answered in 2005 with at least 4 names of members each.)

- A *Directory of Membership* listings and firm profiles distributed throughout six Bay Area counties.

- Access to a "*members-only*" web site for practice and professional resources at www.aia.org.

- Monthly *Chapter meetings* with great refreshments, educational tours and speakers plus opportunities to network with peers, potential mentors, consultants, product vendors, contractors and clients. (Feb 2006: Kaiser Hospital)

- Sponsorship and support for the *training and mentoring* of our emerging professionals, A.R.E. candidates and IDP/CIDP participants.



- An architectural *student oriented program*-offering opportunities to define and develop your future career as an architect.

- Access to *public advocacy* participation including stewardship of the environment and training of non-architect members of public design review agencies.

- Ability to *advertise* that you *belong to an organization that makes a difference!*

Renew today!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

January 2006

ARCHITECTURE 101 COMMITTEE

Judith Wasserman, AIA (Chair)
E-Mail: jwarqiteq@aol.com

Joyce Liu, AIA (Liaison)
E-Mail: joyce.liu@sanjoseca.gov

-Kevin Jones, AIA is arranging several presentations for the City of San Jose Planning Department.

-First presentation, to be scheduled for this winter, will be based on standard 101 program.

-The following two presentations will be tailored and require additional development.

1. What makes good and great projects.
2. Streetscapes. Understanding the fabric of the urban environment; buildings, landscaping, streetscape and how they relate. "When is less more"

-There could be future programs as well for the Planning Commission and City Council.

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Yvonne Farrell, AIA (Chair)
E-Mail: yfarrell@hpsarch.com

Thomas Horan, AIA (Liaison)
E-Mail: thomas.horan@dmjm.com

-2006 kick-off meeting was week of January 16, to discuss this year's goals and agenda.

-Contact Yvonne Farrell for future meeting schedule.

-There is no Green Fair scheduled for 2006.

I.D.P./A.R.E. STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE

Elvyra Dayel, Assoc. AIA

Franceska Gleason, Assoc. AIA (Liaison)

-In process of organizing the following events which will be included in Assoc/ Emerging Prof area of AIASCV website:

- ARE Study Group 2006: AIASCV office, Mon & Wed 7PM
- Graphics Exam seminar in partnership with AIAEB, Sept/ Oct06
- Structural exam weekend seminar in partnership with AIAEB First or second quarter, 2006
- AIASCV Oral Exam Study Group... Beginning ASAP
- Partnering with AIASM to offer "Hard Hat Café" a weekend construction site visit offering learning/ social opportunities

PRINCIPALS ROUNDTABLE COMMITTEE

John Miller, AIA (Chair)

Thomas Horan, AIA (Liaison)
E-Mail: thomas.horan@dmjm.com

-Principal's Roundtable January 20, 2006 at One Workplace-topic was BIM
-Tentative 2006 schedule includes meetings in April, September and November.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Peter Duxbury, AIA (Chair)
E-Mail: peter@duxarx.com

Christine Laing, AIA
E-Mail: christine_laing@gensler.com

-Goal is to finalize the 2006 schedule by Feb/ March.

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NOTE: The sessions are usually conducted during business hours, but there may be some flexibility for early mornings or weeknight evenings.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION AND EVENTS

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www.californiapreservation.org, or
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Registration received by Monday,
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members, \$260 for non-members;
after March 20, 2006: \$235 for CPF
members, \$285 for non-members.

On-line registration is available
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The Condominium Conundrum
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Program runs from 8:45 a.m. to noon
Continuing education credit: 3

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Registration begins at 8:15 a.m.
Program runs from 8:45 a.m. to noon
Continuing education credit: 3

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AIACC 2006 DESERT PRACTICE CONFERENCE

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NEWS BRIEF

WANT TO LEAVE YOUR MARK?

Interested in contributing an article, some artwork, or photos to Tracings?

Drop a line, with a small sample to the editors:

Michael Cervantes –
mcervantes@steinbergarchitects.com

Justine Leong –
jleong@bgdesign.com

If we like your work, and can use it, we might just contact you and print you in the next issue.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONORS

Contributions to our scholarship funds are always greatly appreciated. The funds are the AIASCV Fund, The David W. Lakamp Fund and the Leo and Trinidad Sanchez Fund. The Chapter will be awarding scholarships at the April Chapter Meeting and can use your help to make the amounts worthwhile. We thank the following for their contributions to the 2006 program.

Keith DaCosta, AIA
Bill Hawley Memorial Lunch Group
JE Architects
Frank Jesse, AIA
Roger Kohler, AIA
Kent Mather, AIA
Mr. & Mrs. W.G. McElhinney, AIA
Viole McMahon, AIA
Nancy Rhea
Gil Sanchez, AIA and Daryl Allen
Gary Schloh, AIA
Sam Sinnott, AIA

NEW STANFORD STADIUM UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Since your Executive VP has more than just passing interest in all things Stanford, AIASCV member Bill Busse, AIA knew a site visit to the Farm would catch my attention. Thanks to Bill and Alan Brown of Vance Brown Builders we made a visit in January to the "big dig". Originally created by teams of horses and mules in the 1920's the stadium bowl is now being reconfigured and lowered five feet by teams of men and machines working two shifts, six days a week, including New Years Eve. Starting work the minute after the end of the last 2005 game, the plan is to be ready to host the first game of the 2006 season. Obviously, Stanford will spare no effort to once again defeat the University of California in the new football stadium race! See accompanying photos of our visit and go to <http://stanfordstadium.com/> for up to the minute webcam site viewing. The architect for

the project is Hoover Associates.

TRACINGS NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ONLINE

This is a reminder that the current Tracings newsletter (PDF) is available online each month for viewing and printing using Adobe Reader (www.aiascv.org/pages/tracings.html).

AIASCV OFFICE WELCOMES NEW OFFICE ASSISTANT

Our first New Year's resolution was to hire a new Office Assistant / Receptionist, and as soon as possible! Van Oberquell had decided not to return from maternity leave to stay home with her new 3-month-old son, Sean, our most recent Honorary Basic Member. We posted an ad on Craigslist and WOW, received over 90 resumes! Linda and I were very pleased that Ms Lauren Tanedo accepted our offer and I am happy to report she

started work on January 18th. She will now be the full time voice of the chapter office when you call or stop by so please welcome her to our organization. Nicole Matsumoto, whom you may have met, was a temp replacement for Van and is returning full time to San Jose State.

Bill Busse, AIA (shown) on tour at the new Stanford Stadium construction site.



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(President's Letter Continued from page 2)

chaired by Yvonne Farrell, AIA, held a Green Building Fair that continued to emphasize the importance of the design and construction community in building sustainable, quality environments. (Major kudos to Yvonne for this accomplishment!)

7) Jan Kamachi, Assoc. AIA chaired the Design Awards that brought wide community recognition to the accomplishments of our member firms towards making architecture "relevant" to a broad public audience (Kudos also to Jan!). We have the privilege of Ken Rodrigues, FAIA chairing this event this year, working closely with Board Member Monique Wood, AIA.

Advocacy on behalf of the membership will continue to be a priority in 2006 as Kent Mather, AIA, Frank Jesse, AIA, and Alan Turner, AIA travel to Washington, D.C. February 8 through 11 to participate in the AIA Grassroots Conference. We will look forward to reporting back to the Chapter membership on the results of the conference.

I want to strongly encourage all of our members to continue an active dialogue around the issues where the Chapter needs to represent your interests. The Chapter leadership wants to be a strong voice, but also one that very accurately and fairly reflects the views of the plurality of its membership. Besides voicing your views, you should become "engaged" by joining Chapter committees of interest so we can continue to head in the "right direction" for our profession, our neighborhoods and our Nation.

We need your help!

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORT - ACTUAL YTD 12/31/05

Revenue:	\$271,057.00
Expense: (2005 Budget)	<\$265,256.00>
Expense: (2004 Surplus)	<\$30,610.00>
Total Net:	\$5,801.00

NET WORTH REPORT

Morgan Stanley Account	\$12,632.33
Petty Cash	\$ 100.00
Reserves (18% of budget)	\$52,596.00
Wm. R. Hawley Scholarship:	\$97,108.00
LaKamp Scholarship	\$17,420.85
Sanchez Scholarship:	\$82,456.00

Total Assets: \$262,313.18

BEYOND UFOS THE FUTURE OF HANGAR ONE

By Michael Cervantes, Assoc. AIA

The potential development at Moffett Field begs the question by the curious architect: *What will they do with the massive dirigible hanger that has been a landmark of the Bay Area for over 50 years?*

While some analysts feel it is best to abandon the contaminated Hangar One landmark and demolish it for new construction, this is contrary to the adaptive re-use Master Plan NASA Ames has outlined for the research park and could be a major environmental impact issue to the surrounding environment. However, demolition of the building would refute claims that the hangar currently houses top secret extra-terrestrial research or possibly even a UFO that was allegedly transported here from the infamous Area 51¹.

Perhaps more practical, is a study currently being undertaken to explore the possibility of replacing Hangar One's exterior skin with photovoltaic panels that will have enough power to supply the Bay Area with two megawatts of energy. An illuminating and sustainable idea to be sure, but hardly feasible.

Therefore, in the pioneering, cutting-edge spirit of NASA, I have come up with a few ideas of my own...all of them arguably far-fetched, but certainly plausible to those with innovation in their blood:

- Imagine, under the cover of the mysterious Hangar One, perhaps architects and engineers could finally collaborate to test new products such as the sure-to-be controversial "unidentified flying buttress" made of a lightweight, translucent steel that allows us to erect buildings so tall and light that they appear to be floating in the clouds.
- The hanger can house a giant controlled ecosystem that is used study organisms that will eliminate the avian flu "pandemic".
- More practically, maybe Hangar One will house the development of a zero emission HVAC system that runs on refined biomass that has been cleaned up from the bay.

Whatever the fate of the NASA Ames Research Park and its facilities, the opportunities are boundless, even for the oft less than leading edge design and building industries.

¹Editor's note: while the urban legend that Hangar One currently houses salvaged UFO parts has been generally disproven, many reports confirm that the hangar's exterior skin has a highly contaminated substance that has caused many workers to have fallen ill or mysteriously disappeared while in its proximity. Some of this can be confirmed by this reporter, as the Tracings Staff scurried into the darkness after the January Chapter meeting to see how close we could get to the cordoned off hangar for a photo-op, (see photo below). Despite the continuous drone of an unidentified vehicle's engine reverberating off the buildings in the distance, neither of us were abducted nor thrown into the brig after reaching the hangar. However, I did fall ill with a mysterious food poisoning soon after the event, and now have a curious affliction toward eating foie gras and Chilean Sea Bass.



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Page 1 of 1

Invoice Date: Nov 1, 2005
Invoice To: 1000
Billing From: Nov 01, 2005
Billing To: Nov 30, 2005

INVOICE

Project ID	Phase/Description	% of Total Fee	Contract Amount	% Complete	Previously Billed	Amount Due
01-001-01-001	Architectural	25	\$10,000.00	100	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
01-001-01-002	Interior Condition Phase	1	\$1,000.00	50	\$0.00	\$500.00
01-001-01-003	Exterior Design Development	20	\$20,000.00	50	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
01-001-01-004	Construction Documents	20	\$20,000.00	50	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
01-001-01-005	Bidding & Award	1	\$1,000.00	50	\$0.00	\$500.00
01-001-01-006	Construction Administration	20	\$20,000.00	5	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Amount Due This Service:						\$21,500.00

Account Summary

Total Billed To Date	Total Paid To Date	Balance Due
\$ 21,500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 21,500.00

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Neela Shukla, Assoc. AIA
Neela Design

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Selma Vukotic

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MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

AIASCV MEMBER REFERRAL SYSTEM: Answered a total of 12 requests during January, each with the names of at least four of our architect and/or professional affiliate members to perform services.

AIACC: Limited Liability Partnership (LLP): The AIACC is conducting an important survey of Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) firms in California in preparation for legislative efforts this year to extend or repeal the sunset date on the law that allows architectural firms in California to organize as Limited Liability Partnerships.

AIA: Capitol Hill Visits: This month more than 700 AIA members and component staff will take to Capitol Hill to let their members of Congress know where the Institute stands on issues related to the profession, their businesses, and the public's health and safety in the built environment. This is the only time of the year when an organized group of architects takes the time to meet with their elected federal representatives in Washington, which has resulted in passage of AIA-sponsored items in the 2005 energy and transportation bills and a tax cut for architects in 2004.



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THE EAGLE HAS LANDED NASA EXPANDS ITS UNIVERSE INTO THE REALM OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

By Michael Cervantes, Assoc. AIA

Whether or not you are a supporter in the merits of space exploration, and our desire to one day inhabit the moon, it is hard to dispute the fact that NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has been a pioneer in the realms of innovation and technology since the advent of the Cold War Era nearly 60 years ago. From its advancements in aeronautic technology and space exploration, to vacuum-packed dried food used in space flights and disaster kits, to the lightweight-insulated textiles used for space suits, performance clothing and shelters, NASA has influenced almost every aspect of our everyday lives. Today, even as the nation's future in space exploration hangs in the balance, NASA continues to expand its universe of influence into uncharted territories, but this time, they may not even have to leave the ground.

With its 1994 acquisition of over 1,200 acres of the closed Naval Base at Moffett Field from the U.S. Government, NASA and its Mountain View-based Ames Research Center, have inherited a unique opportunity to enter the realm of stewardship and explore the opportunity of private-public collaboration through the redevelopment and adaptive re-use of Moffett's existing buildings and open spaces. The NASA Ames Development plan unveiled in July 2000 seeks to "create partnerships with Federal, State, and local government agencies, universities, private industries and non-profit organizations" to further NASA's pioneering spirit in the realms of research and innovation. The Center Master Plan prepared by DMJM Design is designed to create a collaborative campus that will stimulate a cross-pollination of ideas in an arena rivaled perhaps only by NASA's original recruitment efforts when it launched a fledgling space program to chase the Soviet Union, in a time when space travel seemed impossible.

While NASA's goal was singular in purpose

during the Cold War era, it seems the potential today, as it has become with many of their

innovations, will excel beyond the realms of technology and science. January's AIASCV Chapter Meeting showcasing Architectural Resource Group's (ARG) transformation of Building 23's hospital program into a research and learning facility for Carnegie West is only a small sample of the potential for the NASA Ames Development Plan. And, with the conversion of Moffett into laboratories, housing, museums, offices and retail spaces to be used by private and public entities, the potential for architects and planners to influence and benefit from these technological advancements should be evident.

The unique program of the NASA Ames Development Plan could evolve into one of the most sustainable developments of this scale in the United States. There is no doubt that the adaptive re-use of Moffett's buildings will require the need for new building program and construction methods to make these buildings efficient and habitable. Additionally, the redevelopment of its plazas into integrated campuses could influence master plans of universities looking to rebuild or

expand their use to outlying cities, communities, and businesses. Finally, the restoration of many of its open spaces to protect the bay's fragile habitat will be essential and could seed the potential for our valley to become the birthplace of new sustainable products and solutions that will impact other urban developments and restoration projects around the country. Rather than waiting to see how this development might impact our community's future, the design community should realize that this is a prime opportunity to be catalysts for creativity and innovation in the realm of urban design. Much like our high tech counterparts in the valley have been for their respective industries, we must be ready to step to the forefront if we want to be leaders rather than followers of the industry.

*Tracings would like to thank NASA Ames Research center, Tom Horan, DMJM Design – San Francisco, and Architectural Resource Group for their contributions to the content of this article.

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AIASCV CHAPTER CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

February 8

Continuing Education

Topic: Building Automation and Management
Noon at HDR Architecture, Mt. View

February 8-10

Grassroots Leadership Conference
Washington DC

February 9

Chapter Meeting

Kaiser Hospital
6PM

February 16

AIASCV Board Meeting

7:30 AM at Chapter Office

February 20

Presidents Day Holiday

Office Closed

MARCH

March 1

New Member Orientation
Chapter Office
6PM

March 9

AIASCV Board Meeting
7:30AM at Chapter Office

March 14

Continuing Education

Topic: Acoustics in Schools
Noon at HMC Architects, San Jose

March 14-16

AIACC Board Meeting
AIACC Day at Legislature
Sacramento

March 15

Continuing Education

Topic: Acoustics in Schools
Noon at HDR Architecture, Mt. View

March 16

Chapter Meeting

Location: Jasper Ridge, Stanford Univ.
6PM



Main interior stairway at Building 23, the first building renovated for the Carnegie West project at Moffett Field.
Photo by David Wakely



AIA Santa Clara Valley

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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